

We claim:

1. A computer implemented method for creating a use case description corresponding to a use case diagram for a process, the use case diagram comprising a plurality of entities wherein each entity belongs to one of a plurality of categories and is one of at least one pair of entities linked by a relationship, the method comprising:
  - a. retrieving a template for each entity, from a database of mark-up language templates, the database having a template for each category of entity;
  - b. adapting each retrieved template such that it has a unique identifier and such that the retrieved template for at least one of each pair of related entities comprises data defining their relationship; and,
  - c. storing the adapted template in a store, the stored adapted templates representing the use case description.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein each relationship is one of a communication, extension, inclusion or generalisation relationship.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein each entity is either a use case or an actor.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mark-up language templates are XHTML templates.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein each entity has a name and each retrieved template is further adapted such that it bears the name of the associated entity.
6. A computer implemented method for creating a use case diagram corresponding to a use case description for a process, the use case description comprising a plurality of mark-up language definitions, wherein each mark-up language definition belongs to one of a plurality of categories and is one of a pair of mark-up language definitions linked by a hyperlink, each hyperlink defining a relationship between

each pair of mark-up language definitions, the method comprising:

- 5        a. displaying an icon for each mark-up language definition, the icon depicting the category of the mark-up language definition;
- b. extracting one or more hyperlinks from each mark-up language definition; and,
- c. displaying a representation of the relationship for each hyperlink extracted.

10      7. A method according to claim 6, wherein each relationship is one of a communication, extension, inclusion or generalisation relationship.

      8. A method according to claim 6, wherein each icon depicts either a use case or an actor.

15      9. A method according to claim 6, wherein the mark-up language is XHTML.

      10. A method according to claim 6, wherein each mark-up language definition has a back reference to each other mark-up language definition that is linked to it by a hyperlink.

20      11. A computer implemented method for synchronising a use case diagram and a use case description, the method comprising detecting a change made to either the use case description or the use case diagram and reflecting that change in the other of the use case description or use case diagram.

25      12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the use case description comprises a plurality of mark-up language definitions, each belonging to one of a plurality of categories and being one of a pair of mark-up language definitions linked by a hyperlink, each hyperlink defining a relationship between each pair of mark-up language definitions, and wherein each mark-up language definition has a back reference to each other mark-up language definition that is linked to it by a hyperlink.

30      13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the change is the addition of an entity to a use case diagram.

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14. A method according to claim 11, wherein the change is deletion of an entity from a use case diagram.

15. A method according to claim 11, wherein the change is renaming of an entity on a use case diagram.

5 16. A method according to claim 11, wherein prior to detecting the change made to either the use case description or the use case diagram, the use case diagram is compared to the use case description, and if they differ, the use case diagram is amended to conform with the

10 use case description.